OECD OURdata Index: 2019

Belgium

Legend:
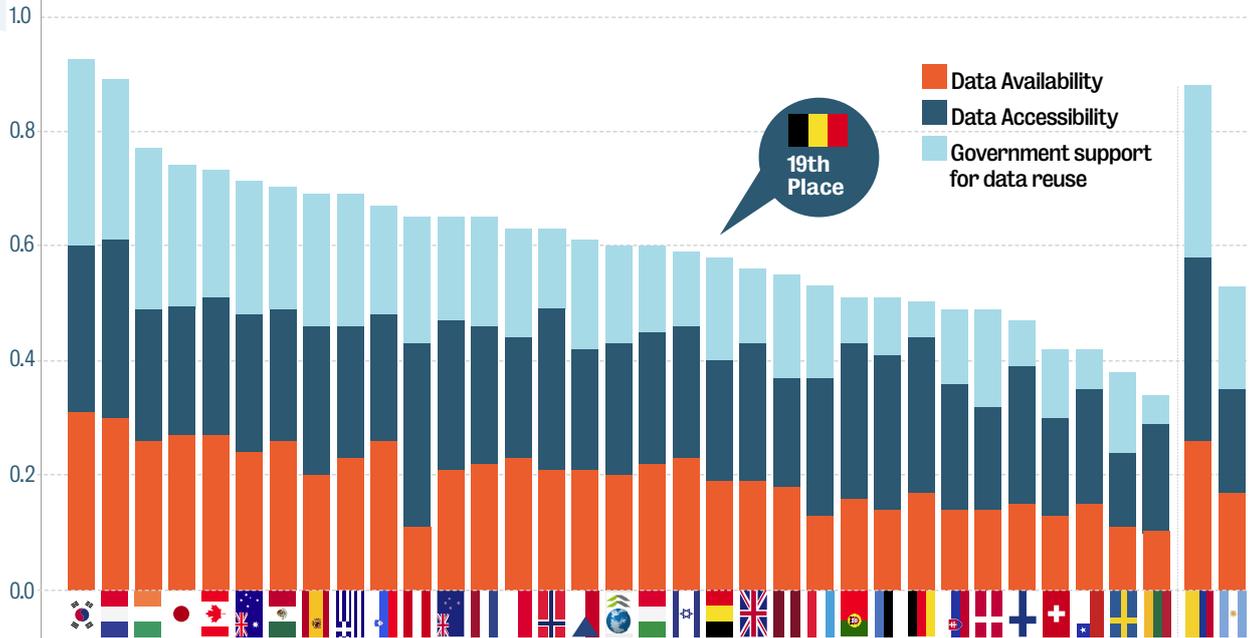- Data Availability
- Data Accessibility
- Government support for data reuse

19th Place

Governance for Open Government Data

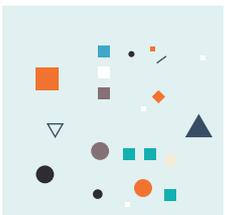| Institutional Governance	Policy Framework	Legal and Regulatory instruments
The Open Data Task Force (ODTF) manages the Belgian federal open data policy. It is a cooperation between the Federal Public Service Policy and Support (FPS BOSA DG DT) and the Administrative Simplification Agency. The Federal Commission on the Access and Reuse of Government Data is in charge of supervising access to government data.	The 2015-2020 Federal Open Data Strategy sets guidance to ensure the proactive and standardised publication of federal open data. "Next Generation Open Data" is listed as one of five main priorities in the Digital Government section of the 2020 Digital Belgium action plan.	The 2013 EU Public Sector Information Directive was made into Belgian federal law by the May 4, 2016 Law on the re-use of public sector information.

Enabling coherent policy implementation

→ A transparency committee of representatives from each federal public authority was created to support the implementation of the federal open data strategy.
→ The 'DCAT working group' hosted by the Open Data Taskforce meet twice each year to discuss the work on open data.

Open Government Data Portal

→ Data.gov.be is the federal open data portal of Belgium.
→ The BeST Address project launched by the Belgian government enabled the consolidation of, and made open, the address data from the Flemish, Walloon and Brussel regions.
→ A linked data fragments/triple fragments experimental server is available through the portal to facilitate the query of linked data on the web.

Using data as a platform: ecosystem engagement and collaboration

→ The Belgian Government often collaborates with the civil society organisation Open Knowledge Belgium (OKND) on open data initiatives.
→ The Open Belgium 2020 conference, held in Hasselt, hosted an interactive co-creation workshop with federal and interfederal government representatives. The aim was to gain insights into the development of open data and to discuss how Belgium can become a European trendsetter in the area.
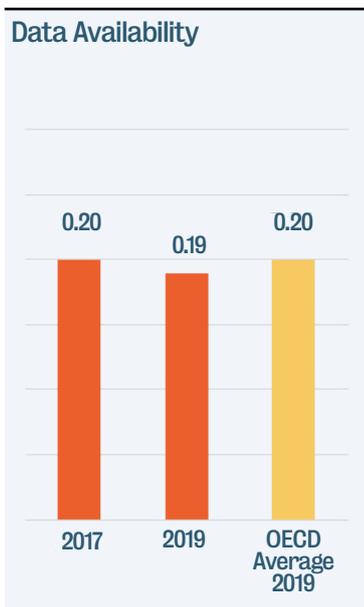
OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES
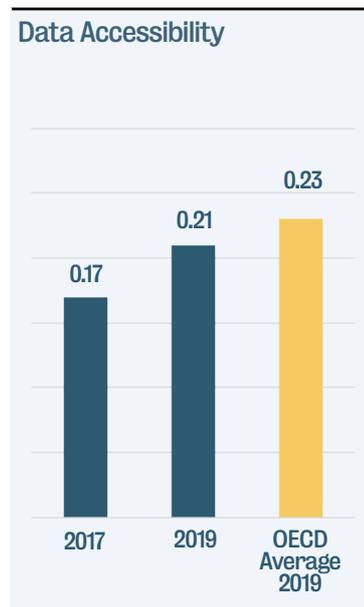
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Good practice

Summer of Code

Each summer, Open Knowledge Belgium, together with the federal government, private and non-profit organisations, organises a 4-week summer programme that provides Belgium-based students the training, network and support necessary to transform open innovation projects into real-world services. With the diverse set of skills and expertise at open Summer of code, organisations are able co-create innovative digital solutions for the challenges they face while engaging a diverse and talented group of students and training a new generation on the importance of open data use and open source coding.
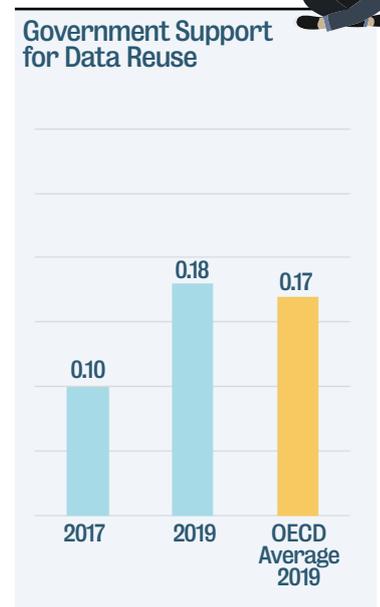
Performance per Index Pillar

Data Availability

2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
0.20	0.19	0.20

Data Accessibility

2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
0.17	0.21	0.23

Government Support for Data Reuse

2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
0.10	0.18	0.17

The availability of high value datasets (as defined by the G8 Open Data Charter) on data.gov.be has   increased and the policy framework to support open by default has been strengthened. However, there is still room for improvement in these areas. The few tools and the requirements for effective stakeholder consultation on data release, Belgium has seen a slight overall drop in performance of the Data Availability pillar since 2017.

The policy framework and delivery of accessible datasets on data.gov.be is strong. However, due to the lack of some features that would enable a more user-driven data.gov.be (e.g. through forums for discussions, the possibility for users to add their own data and visualizations, presenting all user feedback on the portal), Belgium remains below the OECD average in total level of data accessibility.

With notable efforts to strengthen the monitoring of the impact of open data (by promoting re-use examples on data.gov.be), Belgium has increased its performance in Pillar 3 – Government Support for Data Re-use. To increase further, the government could focus on increasing the still moderate levels of engagement with external stakeholders and public officials to promote their re-use of open data, via additional strategic partnerships, training programs and events.